

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

THE HOLY EUCHARIST AT 5:00 PM AND 10:30 PM

DECEMBER 24, 2021

CHRIST
THE SAVIOR
is BORN!



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
527 WASHINGTON STREET READING, PA 19601
(610) 374-4861 www.trinityreading.org

Masks must be worn at all times. Please maintain appropriate distancing between households and use hand sanitizer.



WE WELCOME YOU to historic Trinity Church. We are blessed by your presence and pray God's richest blessing upon you. We invite you to receive the Risen Christ at the Lord's Table. Those not communing may come forward to receive a blessing.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED in finding out more about Trinity or are considering membership, please contact the church office at (610) 374-4861.

LARGE PRINT VERSIONS OF THE WORSHIP BULLETIN are available each week in the narthex. If all are in use, please let an usher know, and we will produce more the following week.



Affirmation of Welcome: Trinity Lutheran Church is recognized by Reconciling Works as a "Reconciling in Christ" Congregation which welcomes all LGBTQ+ persons into all facets of congregational life.

PRELUDE

Creator of the Stars of Night *with* Of the Father's Love Begotten Arr. Michael Larkin

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming Arr. Victor Labenske

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (The Huron Carol) Arr. Phillip Keveren

In the Bleak Midwinter Arr. Phillip Keveren

Angels We Have Heard on High Arr. Victor Labenske

Cantique de Noel Arr. Ira B. Wilson

Still, Still, Still Setting by Paul Manz

Sandra Sittler, piano Karen Eddinger, piano & organ

(5:00) – A Suite of Christmas Carols Arr. Sylvia Woods

The First Nowell

Whence is that Goodly Fragrance?

Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella

Masters in this Hall

Il Est Né (He is Born)

Ding Dong Merrily on High

Lisa Speece, flute

(10:30) - Of the Father's Love Begotten John Carter

The Trinity Choir

See ELW 295 for text.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

P Presiding Minister **A** Assisting Minister **C** Congregation

Please stand and face the cross at the rear of the church.

WELCOME

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful—ELW 283—Stanzas 1-3

Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;

Come and behold him born the king of angels:

Refrain

Oh, come, let us adore him, oh, come, let us adore him,

Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,

Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;

Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain*

CHRISTMAS DIALOG AND GREETING

P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

C **We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

P For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C **In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

P May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

Be seated.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

HYMN: O Little Town of Bethlehem— ELW 279—Stanzas 1, 2, & 4

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

HYMN: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing—ELW 270—Stanzas 1 & 3

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

THIRD READING: Luke 2:1-7

(5:00) TEACHING TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

HYMN: Away in a Manger—ELW 277—Stanzas 1 & 2

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Please stand as you are able.

FOURTH READING: Luke 2:8-20

HYMN: Go, Tell It on the Mountain - ELW 290—Stanzas 1 & 3

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;

Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,

Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;

And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

Be seated.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY: What Child Is This ELW 296

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;

hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.

Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;

joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

THE PRAYERS

- A** Glory to God in the highest,
C and peace to God's people on earth.
- A** Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.
C Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.
- A** Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.
C Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.
- A** Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.
C Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or homeless.
- A** Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.
C Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.
- A** Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.
C Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.
Amen

THE PEACE

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C And also with you.

Please greet one another from a distance and then be seated.

OFFERTORY

(5:00) Ave Maria

Franz Schubert

Rob Speece, soloist

<i>Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum.</i>	Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
<i>Benedicta tu in mulieribus,</i>	Blessed art thou among women,
<i>et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Iesus.</i>	and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
<i>Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,</i>	Holy Mary, Mother of God,
<i>ora pro nobis peccatoribus,</i>	pray for us sinners,
<i>nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.</i>	now and in the hour of our death. Amen.

(10:30) Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Hugo Distler

The Trinity Choir

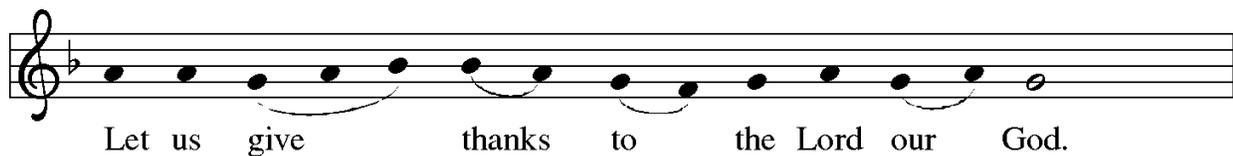
See ELW 272 for text.

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

- A** Let us pray. Gracious God,
C your Word made flesh brings harmony to the earth.
As we offer ourselves and these your gifts,
prepare us to receive the grace and truth
you offer at this table
and renew in us the song of your salvation,
in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING



PROPER PREFACE

- P** It is indeed right, ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord most ho - ly, God of pow'r and God of might:
 heav'n and earth re - veal your glo - ry. Hail, ho - san - na, Lord of light!
 Bless - ed be the com - ing Sav - ior. Hail, ho - san - na, Lord of light!

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P** Holy One...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
- C** **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
- P** With this bread and cup...We look with hope for his coming.
- C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** Holy God...Bring us the gift of peace on earth.
- C** **Come, Holy Spirit.**
- P** All praise and glory...one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

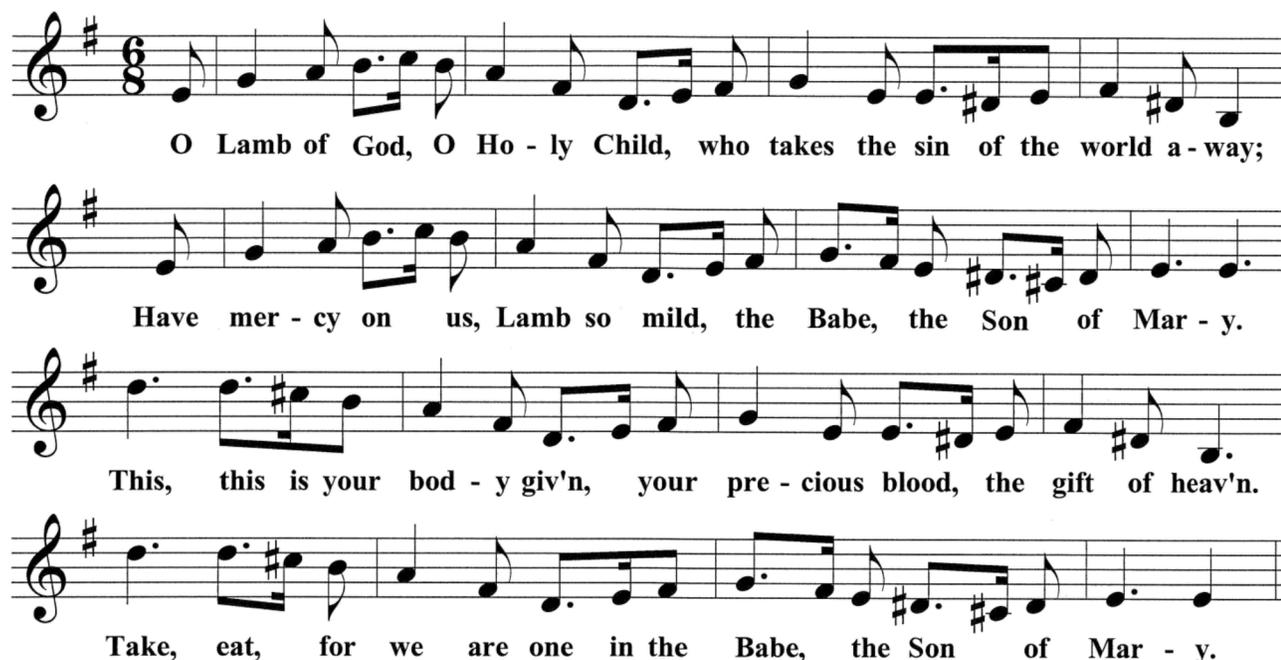
- P** Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:
- C** **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P In Christ's manger, at Christ's table, come, see what God makes known for you.

Be seated.

LAMB OF GOD



O Lamb of God, O Ho - ly Child, who takes the sin of the world a - way;
Have mer - cy on us, Lamb so mild, the Babe, the Son of Mar - y.
This, this is your bod - y giv'n, your pre - cious blood, the gift of heav'n.
Take, eat, for we are one in the Babe, the Son of Mar - y.

DISTRIBUTION

We invite all who wish to receive the Risen Christ in this meal to join us at the Lord's table. Coming to the altar, following the direction of the usher, be sure to maintain a safe distance between households. If you are in need of a gluten-free wafer or would prefer grape juice to wine, please ask your server. Returning to your seat, please deposit the used glass in the baskets provided. Those not receiving the sacrament may come forward for a blessing. If you are unable to come to the altar for communion, tell the usher and the sacrament can be brought to you. God bless you with the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation!

After all have received Communion, please stand as you are able.

TABLE BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

G Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- A** Let us pray. We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray.
- C** **Amen**

CANDLE LIGHTING

The minister lights a large candle from an altar candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world of whom John's gospel speaks. The ushers light their candles from the minister's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. The lighted candle is never tilted but is always held upright when giving light to another.

HYMN: Silent Night, Holy Night

Peter Graf, guitar

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly host sing, alleluia.
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION: John 1:1-14

HYMN: Silent Night, Holy Night

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light:
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute hoch heilige Paar. Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh, schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

BLESSING

☐ May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

☒ Amen

The candles are extinguished.

SENDING HYMN: Joy to the World—ELW 267

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

G Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

George Friedrich Handel/Arr. Fred Bock

Sandra Sittler, piano

Karen Eddinger, organ

✝ ✝ ✝

Leaders in Today's Liturgy

Presiding and Preaching: Pr. Alan Wolkenhauer

Assisting Minister: Dcs. Deborah Graf

Minister of Music: Karen S. Eddinger

Crucifer and Torchbearers: Declan, Jillian and Reagan Rosenbaum (5:00); Geoff, Jesse and Zach Eddinger (10:30)

Lectors: Avery Mazur and Jacinda Motley (5:00); Erica and Steve Hofmann (10:30)

Greeters: Annie Harlin (5:00) and Anita Dolak (10:30)

Media Team (10:30): Matthew Mellen, Matthew Althouse, Amy Bornhofen, Mark Hofmann, and Tom Hofmann

Altar Guild (5:00 PM): Bernadette Ilgen, Jacinda Motley, Joshua Motley, Linda Motley, Charlene Norton, Robin Oberholtzer and Beth Welz

Altar Guild (10:30 PM): Anita Dolak, David Himes, Amy Reinsel, Amy Stewart-Himes, Avery Mazur, and Raye Watson

Decorators: Annie Harlin, Anita Dolak, and Mae Sunderland, who placed the chrismons, wreaths, and poinsettias; Annie Harlin and Mae Sunderland, who created the Christmas wreaths; and Fred Opalinski and Eric Rosenbaum who installed the Christmas trees and lights.

Today's broadcast is sponsored by Pastors Alan and Phyllis Wolkenhauer to the Glory of God.

We thank the ushers, choir members, and Trinity's Brass Ensemble for sharing their ministries of hospitality and music this Christmas Eve

The People of Trinity Church, *Ministers*

PROGRAM STAFF

The Rev. Alan Wolkenhauer

Deaconess Deborah Matern Graf

Karen S. Eddinger, *Minister of Music*

Dee Horst, *Community Outreach*

PARTNER IN MINISTRY

The Rev. Tom Scornavacchi, *Pastor-Mission Developer, Common Ground Ministry*

Vicar Melissa Hrdlicka, *Common Ground Ministry Pastoral Intern*

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EMERITI

The Rev. Elton P. Richards, *Pastor Emeritus*

The Rev. Fred S. Opalinski, *Pastor Emeritus*

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